
* " A FLOWER IN THE ROUGH " *

* PROPERTY OF JOHNNIE SPEER. *

A FLOWER IN THE ROUGH

CAST

LEM HIGGINS CHARACTER OLD MAN
TED OREN LEAD
TOBY COMEDY

AMY CLAY SOUBRETTE LEAD
LAURA DODGE INGENUE HEAVY
MAMIE HIGGINS CHARACTER OLD WOMAN

SETTING

The interior of the Higgins farm house. Very plain but home like. Big dining room table and six chairs. Doors L. and R.

PROPS

Dining room table
Six chairs
Plates and knives and forks for six
Dummy chicken
Dummy hog brains
Auto horn
Loaded letter
Slap stick.

MAMIE

(ENTERS WITH SOME DISHES AND BEGINS TO SET THE TABLE) (SINGS) Oh home in heaven on high. (GOES OVER TO D. R.) Lem! Lem Higgins.

LEM

(ENTERS R.) What be you wantin' Ma?

MAMIE

I want you to go down in the cellar and get the butter and jar of preserve Lawsakes I've got more work to do than I can take care of.

LEM

Now what in the atarnation is the use of goin' to so much fuss and bother over a bunch of city duces that'll come down here and maybe be too durn stuck up to eat.

MAMIE

Now you don't know what they'll be like : At least they can't say that I didn't set a good table for them. (SINGS) "Oh there's a home in heaven on high."

LEM

By George, Ma, the way you're singin' one would think you was happy cause them city folks are comin' to take dat little Amy away from us.

MAMIE

Of course I'm glad. The poor little girl is going to get to have fine clothes, and live in a rich homestead and get to be a lady. Who wouldn't be happy? (AMY LAUGHS OFF STAGE) Listen at her laughing. The poor girl is beside herself with excitement. I must see if she's all clean and spic and span looking. I wouldn't want them people to think I didn't keep her right. Amy. Amy! Come in here a minute. (AMY ENTERS R. ON THE RUN)

AMY

Toby don't you throw that tomato at me! (RUNS AROUND THE ROOM FOLLOWED BY TOBY)

TOBY

Durn you socked me one. Now I'm gonna hit you. Come on now let me.

MAMIE

Toby you leave her alone. What in the world's coming off here? Amy, do you want to get yourself all dirty so you'll look like a tramp when them city folks come to take you.

AMY

Oh, I--I don't care. Honest Mrs. Higgins I really wish they weren't coming. It's going to be hard to leave this old farm, and go to the city and learn all over again. I'd just rather be your hired girl than a rich lady if you ask me?

MAMIE

Oh you'll get all of them silly notions out of your head when you see all the fine things that they can give you. Lawsakes when I adopted you at the orphanage I never knew that you were going to turn out to be related to a rich man.

AMY

I still don't understand about them relations of mine. That letter we got said that I was related to Colonel Ingram of Newport, but it don't say who my father or my mother really was. That's what really counts.

TOBY

Gosh, Amy, maybe you aint never had no father or mother--maybe y
hatched out of a chicken egg or something.

AMY

Oh Toby, you're just as crazy as you look. It's no joking matter for a
girl not to have a father and a mother. You ~~are~~ lucky. You've got a
lovely mother and a wonderful father.

TOBY

I don't know whether I have or not. Whenever I do something wrong mom
says I aint no child of hers, and ~~and then when I do something good why I aint~~
but I'm a son of my father, and then when I do something good why I aint
no child of my father, I'm her boy. I guess if I'd be good and bad at
the same time I wouldn't be no body's child.

LEM

Oh, Toby, quit yer durn chattering and go out and get that Ford. I expect
you'll have to go down to the station to drive them city folks here to
the farm.

TOBY

Durn it Pa something's wrong with that Ford of ours. I think it's got the
croupe. It jerks and jumps and sputters and won't start half the time.

LEM

Oh that durn Ford aint no good. I guess you'll have to hitch up the ~~buggy~~
horse and buggy. I aint never been satisfied with that Ford since we've
had it. Durn new fangled contraptions.

TOBY

Aw gosh pa, that Ford's all right now, only we ought to get one of them
new ones. We've had this one long enough.

LEM

Nothing doing. When that Ford wears out there 'll not be no more on the
place. I was reading in the newspaper where a man said that The Ford
automobile had taken more people to hell than any other car. And that's
where that Ford of yours will take you---

TOBY

You durn right it will and it'll bring me back again too by gum. You aint
gonna knock my car. Just for that I'll go out and get a piece of bailing
wire and fix the darn thing and drive them city folks back to the farm
from the station.

MAMIE

All right, Toby, go on. The train is in fifteen minutes. See if you can
get them back in time so my dinner won't be all cold.

TOBY

Gosh, Ma, what are you going to have to eat. Can I have a little taste
right now?

MAMIE

No, you can't. All you do is eat. I don't think I'll even let you sit
at the same table with us when Amy's folks get here. You can wait until
after we get through.

TOBY

Nothin' doin'. Shucks there won't be nothin' left for me to eat. I'll
behave Mz, honest I

Will

MAMIE

Well, I'll see about it. But you go get that car and get started. And you come with me, Pa. I want you to help me take the chicken to the oven. Now, Amy, don't let Toby muss you up. Come on, pa. (THEY EXIT L.)

TOBY

Gosh, Amy, are you glad that you're gonna get to go?

AMY

Oh I don't know, Toby? I just can't figure it out. It all seems so sudden. It seems like only yesterday I was just an orphan girl adopted by your good folks, and working like a hired girl for them. Now these city people are coming---things are changed. I don't know whether to laugh or to cry or what. I'm just undecided.

TOBY

Sorta like a chicken goin' to lay her first egg, huh? You know, Amy, you and me been sorta good friends ever since we was kids, aint we? You know I sorta thought that maybe when we grew up we'd get together and get married.

AMY

Well, I'm afraid that would never be, Toby. I--I don't know whether I'll ever get married.

TOBY

Gosh, you ought to get married some time. I suppose you're gonna wait till you get to the city and then marry some rich dude.

AMY

Oh I don't know. Some day maybe I'll find the man who is just my ideal. Did you know last night I had a dream about a man.

TOBY

Did you? What did you dream?

AMY

I dreamed last night that the handsomest man in the world proposed to me.

TOBY

What did I say?

AMY

Oh it wasn't you. It wasn't anything that looked like you. It was somebody that I had never seen before. Maybe I'll meet him soon. You know Toby that fortune teller who was with the Cricus told me that something big was coming into my life. (LAUGHS AND EXITS L.)

TOBY

Yeah, and the next day an elephant almost stepped on ya. Gosh I'll sure miss Amy when she goes away. (SMELLS) Oh boy mom sure is cookin' some-thin' good and I'm sure hungry. I hope them city folks aint got no appetite when they get here, cause then there 'll be more left for me to eat. (EXITS R.)

***** NUMBER ONE *****

MAMIE

(ENTERS WITH LEM) Landsakes pa I wonder what's the matter? Toby hasn't got here with them city folks. and it's way past train time.

LEM

Oh, that darn Ford of his might have broken down again. You can't

tell what he's gonna do when he drives that car.

AMY

(ENTERS L.) Hasn't Toby gotten back yet?

MAMIE

No, and I'm so worried. That boy is going to be the killing of me yet.
(HORN OFF STAGE AND NOISE)

AMY

There's Toby coming into the yard. (LOUD NOISE AND THEN QUIET) But there isn't any one with him. They didn't come.

TOBY

(ENTERS R.) The gold darn city folks told me I couldn't beat 'em in my Ford. I showed 'em.

MAMIE

Toby, what are you talking about? Where are the city folks?

TOBY

Oh they came in their own car. It's some kind of a big car with a high soundin' name. I met 'em up the road, and they wanted to race me. Here they come now. (GOES TO DOOR.) Come on in here. This is the place.

TED

(ENTERS WITH LAURA) Come on, Laura. This is the place. (THEY ENTER) Well, my boy, we've got to give you credit your Ford certainly beat my car. I never thought it could do it.

TOBY

Listen, boy, that Ford of mine is a Lolapaloozer. They aint nothin' can beat it.

TED

Why I never saw a car go so fast in my life.

TOBY

Shoot you aint seen no speed yet. Wait till you see me run that car in high.

TED

In high?

TOBY

Heck yes. I couldn't get the darn thing out of low.

MAMIE

Oh, Toby, quit your talking and let somebody get a word in edgeways. Now, folks, I'm mighty happy to welcome you to our farm, and here is the little girl that you have come to see. We all hate to see her go, but we know that it is for the best.

LAURA

(LOOKING AT AMY COLDY) So this is Amy?

AMY

Yes, Amy Clay is the name that they gave me at the orphanage. Are you just real sure that I'm the girl you folks want to give all your money too

LAURA

LAURA

Oh we're not exactly going to give you any money. I'm afraid you understand the circumstances. You see my father has looked into your record at the Orphan Asylum where you were taken, and he discovered that you were---well distantly related to him. So he desired that you be trained and then brought to Newport to blossom forth a society debutante. As he could not get away to come down here he sent me to see about your education you might say.

AMY

Oh then I aint going to have to go away from here right away?

LAURA

Well, not for a little while any way. I want to --well to be frank with you--I want to do a little polishing up on your manners and so forth. Naturally the life which you are going into will be very different from the one you have lived in at this farm. You will embark upon a social career.

TOBY

Oh we have sociables here. Gosh twice every year the church has a ice-cream sociable, and I eat so much that it runs out of my nose.

LEM

Toby, hush up! Well, ma'am, if I aint too personal just what relation be you--to this girl?

LAURA

I am--er--her cousin. And this gentleman here is my. Ted Oren.

AMY

Is he related to me too?

LAURA

No--he is engaged to me. We are to be married in the Fall.

AMY

Well, I'm sure glad to meet you, Cousin, and it's nice to know I've got some relations. Maybe you know something about my father and mother? Do you

LAURA

I think my father will tell you something about them when he sees you. Now if it is all the same with you people, we would like to remain here awhile, that is if you have accommodations. My father desires that I teach this girl some of the major points of culture before I bring her to his home.

TOBY

I see sorta of like making her clean her feet before she comes into the parlor huh? Well, Amy's good enough to go in anybody's home just like she is.

MAMIE

Toby! I'll have your pa take you to the barn in a minute. Certainly Miss, we'd be glad for you and your feller to stay here at our farm for awhile. I've prepared a nice dinner for you, and you two can occupy the two upstairs bed rooms. (TO LAURA) You may have Toby's bedroom.

TOBY

Gosh, Ma, you mean I got to sleep with her?

MAMIE

Mercy sakes no. YOU'll sleep out on the back porch.

TOBY

Well, all right, but if she's going to sleep in my bed room she to sleep with my dog.

DEM

Toby, she'll do no such thing. You get that dog out of that bedroom. Me and ma's told you about lettin' him sleep in the bed. He'll have it so full of fleas that it'll be infested. Now you skin upstairs and clean your room out. And get that dog out of there.

TOBY

Aw gee whiz. That aint fair to my dog to make him sleep some where else. He's used to sleepin' in my bed. (TO LAURA) You don't mind sleepin' with my dog do you? He's a big German Police Dog.

LAURA

Mercy! I couldn't stand that. Me sleep with a dog. The idea.

TOBY

Well, on the second thought maybe my dog wouldn't want to sleep with you either. He's kinda perticular himself.

DEM

Toby! You get out of here. Get up there and clean out your room. Durn your hide or I'll wear you down to a thin dime. (CHASES TOBY OFF L.)(EXITS AFTER HIM)

MAMIE

Now you folks musnt mind that boy of mine. And I do hope that you will be comfortable here.

TED

Thank you. I'm sure that I'm going to like it. This is really a nic e farm. I want to be shown all over it before I leave here.

AMY

Oh do you really? I--I'll be glad to show you over it. I know every nook and spot on it. Maybe it sounds silly to you folks, but when I thought that I was going to leave here, I went all over the farm just before you came, and I looked at every little corner, and turn and I touched each fence post and barn gate with my finger--'cause I've grown to love this old place. And now that I'm going to stay here awhile longer I'm going to get to go all over it again. You'll love this farm too when you see it, Cousin

LAURA

Really I'm afraid I can't enjoy such things myself.

MAMIE

Well, you folks sit down and make yourselves at home. Amy, if you want to you can come and help me with the ice cream freezer.

AMY

All right, Mother Higgins--I will-- (TO TED AND LAURA) You see I call her mother ' cause she's the only mother that I ever knew. I'm sure that my mother if she had lived and I had got to know her would have been just like she is. Well, I--I'm awfully glad I met you, folks, and you--cousin, and I'm glad I'm going to get to learn things, and I'm glad I'm going to get to show you over this farm Mr---Mr--

TED

(SMILES) Just call me Ted-

AMY
All right Mr. Ted--and I--I--

MAMIE
Landsakes come along, with me Amy 'fore you tall an arm off of them.
(TAKES AMY OFF L.O)

LAURA
My what a chatterbox she is!

TED
She's a cute little bag of tricks tho' I think don't you?

LAURA
Oh I don't know.

TED
I say, Laura, you're not treating her right, You told her that you she was your cousin. You know that she is your sister, and your father wanted her to know that--

LAURA
She is only my half sister. I don't care what you say. I shall never like her. I think it is disgraceful. You know that my father was not married to her mother. Why he should want to bring such a child into his household is more than I can understand.

TED
Poor kid! I feel sorry for her. Maybe she would have been better off if your father had never tried to find her. But then you cannot blame him for having some feeling toward her! After all she is as much his flesh and blood as you are.

LAURA
Please don't talk about it. I do not like it at all, Ted.

TOBY
(ENTERS L.) Well, I got my room all cleaned out. I had a pair of dirty socks, but I threw them over in a corner. I guess you won't mind them much. If they get too strong, why they'll get up and walk out. Say I still couldn't induce you to let my dog sleep with you, could I?

LAURA
I should not, boy. Whzt do you think I am that I would want to sleep with a dog?

TOBY
Shoot I know an old lady who sleeps with Katz.

LAURA
Who is it?

TOBY
Mrs. Katz!

TED
(LAUGHS) That's one on you, Laura.

LAURA
I don't think that's smart at all. I think I shall go to my room. I'm rather tired from my trip. I must wash up too. I suppose you could show me to bawth room.

TOBY
we aint got no bawth room. If you needed a bath, lady, you ou
a took it afore you come.

LAURA
Well, this is the limit. What in the world do you do here when you want
to take a bath?

TOBY
I never want to take one, but if you ~~just~~ got to have one real bad why I
reakon we could let you take it in the horse trough.

LAURA
Oh insidious! (EXITS L.)

TOBY
Oh fer Gawd's sake. What a long tail our cat has got. Say, Mister, I
like you all right, but I'll be durned if I like that jane that come with
you. She's too stuck up.. The idea of her refusin' to sleep with my dog
and makin' him move out of his nice bed. Well, I'll tell you one thing
she's gonna be sorry? 'Cuase that dog of mine when he sleeps in that bed
all the fleas and wood ticks stay on him, but the minute he leaves that
bed why them fleas stay right there, so after she sleeps in that bed
tonight, she's gonna be so covered with fleas and wood ticks in the
mornning, that she'll be doin' a cootch dance before breakfast. And believe
me it'll serve her right! (EXITS WITH TED WHO LAUGHS UPRORIOUSLY)

***** NUMBER THREE TWO *****

MAMIE
(ENTERS WITH LEM) Pa, I just can't figure it out. Them city folks have
been here two whole weeks, and that woman says that Amy aint educated
enough yet to go to the city.

LEM
I think it's a lot of durn nonsense. That city gal is too high falutin'
Her feller is all right. He wants to be a farmer like me. Now them
kind of guys is the kind I like, but that other one--

MAMIE
Oh well, she may be one of them nervous kind of women. I noticed that
she just seems to be full of the wiggles. Did you ever notice how that
city gal jumps and jerks ever once in awhile. And, Pa, do you know I
caught her out behind the barn rubbin' her back up against the side of
the barn and scratchin like an old hog rootin' for slipp.

LEM
(GRINS) Maybe Toby's got something to do with that. You know he don't
like her, and the rascal wouldn't stop at murder to make her uncomfort-
able.

MAMIE
Well, I'll certainly see him about that. You're going to have to tan
him good. Lawsakes and the way he eats and acts at the table. Don't
you know that a child's actions reflect upon their parents. Dear me!
Them city folks will think you and I are heathens.

LEM
Well, here comes the boy. I'll give him a talking to. (TOBY ENTERS
ON THE RUN AND LAUGHING) Toby, what the devil are you doing?

TOBY
That city gal has got the itch. I been tellin' her she ought to do something for it, and she got mad and threw a stick at me.

MAMIE
Listen, Toby, you've got to stop behaving like that in front of them. And I want to tell you that if you don't have more table manners at the table. Quit reaching for stuff clear across the table. Ask for it.

TOBY
Well, gee whiz! If I don't grab it it gets all et up from me. Them folks has got bigger appetites than anybody I ever seen. I wish I could do something to make 'em lose their appetites so I'd get a chance to eat once. We've had chicken three days now and all I have had was the neck. (AMY ENTERS R U. CRYING) Gosh, Amy, what's the matter?

AMY
Oh, my cousin told me that I'd never learn to do anything right. I--I'm so tired of it all. I just can't seem to please her. She said if I didn't learn something soon I wouldn't get to go to the city. I don't care if I don't get to go there.

TED
(ENTERS R.) Oh, Amy, there you are. I've been trying to catch up with you. I want to tell you not to feel offended at what Laura said. She's a little out of humor today, and so I'll give you your grammar lesson myself. (LAURA ENTERS R.)

AMY
(PLEASED) Oh will you! I'd much rather you'd learn me than her.

LAURA
Oh so you would? Well, I shall attend to your education, myself. No doubt Mr. Oren would enjoy teaching you so that he might hold your hand.

TED
Why, Laura, what do you mean by such an unkind statement?

LAURA
I've watched you two together this past week, and I think your conduct is quite unbecoming--especially considering the fact that you are engaged to me. Of course if you fancy this country girl to me--well-- (STARTS TO SCRATCH)

TOBY
What's the matter --have you still got the itch? It's a funny thing ever since you been here you've been scratching.

LAURA
How dare you? I don't scratch. (GETS BITE AND SCRATCHES IT. THEN GIVES TOBY A DIRTY LOOK)

TOBY
(LAUGHS) No you don't scratch--not much! (LOOKS) What's that on your neck

LAURA
Why, that's a freckle!

TOBY
That's the first time I ever saw one crawl!

LENN

Toby, that's enough of your darn fool talk. Come on, Ma, let's have dinner. I'm hungry.

TED

Gee so am I. This country air gives one an appetite.

TOBY

Dgggone I can see where I aint gonna get nothin' to eat again. You folks all got appetites like horses.

MAMIE

Well, folks, dinner is allready to serve. Just get yourselves washed and set down I'll bring it in. There's a pan and water all clean out on the back porch. (EXITS WITH LENN) Let's hurry I'm hungry myself.

AMY

Yes, I'm hungry too! Come on, Ted---(TAKES HIS HAND)

LAURA

Oh, Ted's not going with you. My dear girl, you should be informed once more that it isn't proper to have anything to do with a man who is engaged.

AMY

Well, Ted, says he isn't engaged to you! And if he aint why I want him 'cause he's just the kind of a man I've always dreamed of having.

LAURA

What! (TO TED) Did you say something like that to her?

TED

Well, Laura, we were not exactly engaged. You know that. Our engagement was just one of those arragged affairs, but I had never told you that I loved you.

AMY

Well, tell her now that you don't love her, Ted and tell me that you do love me!

TED

Yes, I do love you, Amy, and I want you for my wife. Come on let 's get washed for dinner. (THEY EXIT L.)

LAURA

Well, of all the---

TOBY

Boy that's lettin' you down a notch or two aint it?

LAURA

Oh you country hick, how would you like to go scratch your cows?

TOBY

Fine! How would you like to go scratch your fleas? ~~kd Boy, k~~ You wouldn't sleep with my dog so now you 're payin' for it, cause my dog left his fleas on the bed you sleep on.

LAURA

Mercy! Do you mean to tell me that I've really got fleas? Oh what will I do? I'll be disgraced. You beast you've got to tell me what to do to get rid of them.

TOBY
Well, I know what my dog does?

LAURA
What does he do?

TOBY
He scratches them just like this. (DOG BUS SHE EXITS DISGUSTED) Oh boy! This is more fun than a picnic. I'm sure glad Amy got that guy away from her too. Well, I guess I'll wash for dinner, gosh I'm hungry. Believe me I've got to think of some way to make them folks lose their appetites so that I can get something besides the neck of that darn chicken. (EXIT)

***** NUMBER THREE *****

MAMIE
(ENTERS WITH SOME DISHES) Well come on, Folks dinner is already to be served! (BUS. OF FIXING TABLE) (TOBY ENTERS AND SITS DOWN) Toby get up from that table and wait until the folks get seated.

TOBY
Gosh, Ma, I'm hungry! (AS TED ENTERS) Hurry up let's eat.

TED
(ENTERS L. WITH AMY) All right, Toby. I agree with you I'm really hungry.

AMY
I've got a good appetite too only I'm sorry that my cousin is so angry with me. I don't know why she doesn't like me. She never did.

TED
Don't let it worry your pretty little head, Amy. After dinner, I've got something to show you. It's a letter from---Colonel Dodge. I just got it today. It is something very important concerning you, Amy. But I shan't tell you until after we have had dinner.

LEM
(ENTERS L. WITH LAURA) Now come right in Ma 'am and sit down. I'll attend to that boy of mine and give him a good trouncing if you say so. Mom, this woman tells me that Toby said she had fleas. What have you got to say about it?

TOBY
Well, don't blame me. She didn't get 'em from me. I aint been sleepin with her. She wouldn't sleep with my dog and he always keeps all the fleas on him when he's in bed, and when he leave shwy the fleas stay inbed.

LEM
Toby, I ought to make you stay away from the table and not eat for the way you've been cutting up. Well, let's sit down folks. Miss Dodge, I'll try and do something about your fleas after dinner.

LAURA
Oh I was never so embarrassed and miserable in my life! Oh! (GETS BITE ON PRAT) Oh those terrible fleas!

TOBY
Well, to show you I'm a good fellow ma'am, I'll scratch it for you! (STARTS

MAMIE
Toby, sit down and behave. (THEY ALL SIT DOWN)

(TOBY REACHES FOR FOOD) SHE SLAPS HIM) Toby wait. We haven't blessing yet. Just for that you may offer up a blessing. Bow your head. (THEY ALL BOW THEIR HEADS) Go ahead Toby say a blessing.

TOBY

Oh all right. Ashes to ~~ashes~~ and dust to dustt
I hope I get more to eat than a lussy bread crust.
Now let's eat. (REACHES AGAIN)

LEM

(SLAPS HIS FINGERS WITH KNIFE) Wait till the rest of the folks have been served! Let's have some chicken Mother. Pass it this way.

TOBY

Oh all right, I didn't want no chicken any way. I seen the chicken get it's head cut off, and the bld gooeey blood made me sick. Besidee I don't think that chicken was very well. It might have had maggots in it.

MAMIE

(GETS SICK) Oh, Toby, you've spoiled my appetite talking like that. Such talk at the table. Now I won't be able to eat any chicken.

LAURA

I either! Oh mercy.

TOBY

Gosh don't none of you want no chicken? (THEY ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS)
Well, I hate to see anything like that go to waste, so I guess I'll eat it. (TAKES CHICKEN OVER TO HIS SIDE)

LEM

Now, Toby, hush you're durn talk at the table after this. You've spoiled my dinner. Ma, pass me some of them beats. I'll eat them.

AMY

Yes, I'll take some of those too.

TOBY

Gosh, I'd like to eat some of 'em too, but beats always reminded me of fresh blood---sorta like you'd cut somebody's head off and they was all covered with bleed.

AMY

Oh, Toby! (GETS SICK)

LEM

Consarn ye Toby, hush that talk at the table. I can't eat no beats now. (PASSES BEATS AROUND NOBODY TAKES THEM. THEY ALL LOOK SICK) Pass me the ~~beats~~ Some cream gravy.

TOBY

Cream gravy! Oh boy that's what I like too. (BLOWS NOSE WITH HAND)

LEM

Toby! Don't do that. ~~It looks like~~

toby

Why not?

LEM

It doesn't look nice!

TOBY
Shucks it looks like that cream gravy you're about to take.

LEM
(GETS STUCK) Oh! Toby, I'm gonna beat you within an inch of your hide---
Now I can 't eat no gravy. (PASSES IT AROUND) (THEY ALL REFUSE IT)

TOBY
(FILLS PLATE WITH GRAVY) Gosh, you folks don't seem to have no appetite at all.

MAMIE
Well, Toby, if you don't quit talking about such unappetizing things at the table we won't be able to eat. Now, folks, don't pay attention to Toby--he's not just plum right. (PASSES PLATE TO TED) Won't you have some brains?

TED
(SMILING) Yes, I think I need 'em. (TAKES SOME ON HIS PLATE) ~~That's some~~

TOBY
I'd eat some too, but I can't hardly go 'em no more---since that time I seen Si Perkins cow that got hit by a train and her guts was all over the cow catcher, and they looked just like hog brains. And--(THEY ALL GET SICK AND PASS PLATE AROUND AND IT COMES TO TOBY) My goodness don't no body want any brains?

LEM
That's the end! Ma, I'm gonna have to tan his hide! He spoiled my whole meal. Dad burn heathen kid any way.

LAURA
I think it's disgraceful! ~~Ikakakakakak~~ He is a perfect idiot.

TOBY
Well, we can't all be perfect!

MAMIE
Toby, hush up! Folks, I'm sorry about this. I cooked such a good dinner today. Well, maybe some of you would like some lemonade. (POURS GLASSE AND GIVES IT TO TED AND LEM) I hope Toby can't find anything to say about it.

TED
Here too. Because this is good lemonade. (DRINKS)

TOBY
It ought to be. I put my foot in it. (LEM AND TED SPIT LEMONADE OUT)
(LEM STARTS FOR TOBY RUNS) Now, Pa, you leave me alone. I didn't do nothing.

LAURA
(RISING) Oh this is more than I can stand. I'm going back to the city. I don't care what my father says. I wouldn't stay here and try to teach this ignorant girl a thing.

TED
Now, you have no right to talk that way to Amy. It is not her fault, Laura.

LAURA
I suppose it is not her fault that she took you away from me. But then what could one expect from a girl of her birth.

AMY
Why what do you mean?

LAURA
You may as well know it now as ever. Your father was not married to your mother when you were born. That is why the records of your parentage have been so shady. In plain words you are the illegitimate child of my father. And he in his old age has grown repentant and wants you brought to his home to enjoy some of his wealth. But I shall never recognize you as any kin to me. I hate you and I always shall.

TED
Don't! Laura, can't you see that you are breaking her heart?

LAURA
Well, what if I am? Why should I have to share anything with her. She doesn't deserve half of my father's fortune and all that he would give her. She is nothing but--

TED
Laura, I must demand that you stop and listen to what I have to say. Here is a letter which I have just received from your father--and--also-- Amy, please don't cry. You remember I told you that I had something important for you after dinner. Well, now I must tell you. In this letter Colonel Dodge writes me that he is upon his death bed and--

LAURA
What my father dying?

TED
Yes, and he has asked me to break this news to you. Laura you are not his legitimate daughter as you have always thought. Amy is the rightful heir to his money.

LAURA
Why how can you say that?

TED
Your father confesses it himself. He writes, "Dear Ted, I am asking you to be gentle in breaking this startling confession to my daughter, Laura. But I was not legally married to her mother, and have not been all of these years. Amy I was married to Amy's mother, ~~but she ran away with me~~ another man but when Amy was a very little baby I ran away like a wild cur and left her mother. Years later I decided to marry ~~another woman~~ another woman but could find no trace of my real wife so that I might obtain a divorce. Never-the-less I committed bigamy and married Laura's mother, and I have lived respected and honored in my community. But now that death is closing in upon me, I must make my heart free by confession. Amy is my legitimate daughter. Good help me!

TOBY
(TO LAURA) Now, by gosh, you got let down another notch didn't you gal. When you first come here you had a father and you was engaged. Now you aint got no man, and you aint got no real papa--first thing we know we'll find out that you weren't even born.

TED
Well, Amy, what do you think ~~now~~ now?

AMY
Oh I'm so happy--and I'm so sad too. I'm sorry for Laura and glad for myself. (PUTS ARMS AROUND LAURA WHO IS CRYING) Skster, I

I forgive you for the mean things that you said, and I love you.
I'm sorry for you. Please don't take it so hard.

MAMIE

The poor girl this is a terrible shock to any one. We all feel mighty sorry for you. But we're happy for Amy's sake.

LEM

Ye s indeed---we know that you heart is full of sorrow-- And your head is

TOBY

Is full of fleas!

LEM

That's the end. Toby, to the woodshed for you. (TAKES HIM OUT. BUS? WHIPPING HIM. TOBY ENTERS HOLDING HIS PANTS) Well, folks, now that I've done my family duty let's all join in and celebrate Amy's good fortune! I suppose you will be leaving the farm now for good?

AMY

No, Ted and I are going to buy a farm of our own and stay right here. Aren't we Ted? Oh there is only one thing now that would make me happy and that is for Laura to say that she will live with us too. Will you?

LAURA

Yes, if you will forgive me for the way I have acted.

AMY

I do a thousand times. Oh now I am happy. At last I know who I really am. I know that I've got a sister, and that I've got a father. I'm so happy I could sing. That's how I feel.

TOBY

Well, that aint how I feel.

AMY

Toby, how do you feel?

TOBY

I feel like hell! (HOLDS PANTS)

***** F I N A L E ****